REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. By this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 1, 5 and 10-11 are amended. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is submitted herein.

Claims 1 and 5 each recite a constant velocity universal joint including, among other features, the outer periphery of a trunnion is shaped convex arc in longitudinal section and formed, in cross section including the center of the convex arc, to make contact only with an inner periphery of the support ring in a direction perpendicular to an axis of the joint, wherein a clearance is formed between the outer periphery of the trunnion and the inner periphery of the support ring in an axial direction of the joint.

Marked-up copies of Figures 8(A) and 8(B) from the application are enclosed herein and referred to in the following passages to clarify and amplify the differences between the claimed invention and the teachings of Bensinger.

Figure 8(B) of the application shows the trunnion in longitudinal section wherein an outer periphery of the trunnion contacts an inner periphery of the support ring.

Figure 8(A) of the application shows the trunnion in cross-section, wherein it is clearly shown that while the outer periphery of the trunnion in the direction perpendicular to the axis of the joint contacts the inner periphery of the support ring, a clearance is formed between the outer periphery of the trunnion and the inner periphery of the support ring in an axial direction of the joint.

As such, the outer periphery of the trunnion only makes contact with the inner periphery of the support ring in a direction that is perpendicular to the axis of the joint. Further, a clearance is formed between the outer periphery of the trunnion and the inner periphery of the support ring in an axial direction of the joint.

Bensinger fails to disclose or suggest such a feature.

Rather, because the outer periphery of the Bensinger trunnion makes contact with the inner periphery of the support ring along the entire circumference of the trunnion, a clearance is not and cannot be formed between the outer periphery of the trunnion and the inner periphery of the support ring in an axial direction of the joint. Put simply, given the structural configuration of the Bensinger trunnion, since the entire outer periphery of the trunnion contacts the inner periphery of the support ring, Bensinger does not disclose or suggest ***only*** the outer periphery of the Bensinger trunnion contacts the inner periphery of the support ring in a direction that is perpendicular to the axis of the joint. In other words, the outer periphery of the Bensinger trunnion contacts the inner periphery of the support ring in a direction that is perpendicular to the axial direction of the joint ***and*** in the axial direction of the joint. See Figures 1-2 and 5-6c of Bensinger, which are enclosed herein for the convenience of the Examiner.

Prompt and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 100725-00113**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Registration No. 44,275

Enclosures: Marked-up Figures 8(A) and (B)
Marked-up Figures 1-2 and 5-6c of Bensinger
Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement/PTO SB/08a w/7 references

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Present Invention

FIG. 8 (B)

cross section

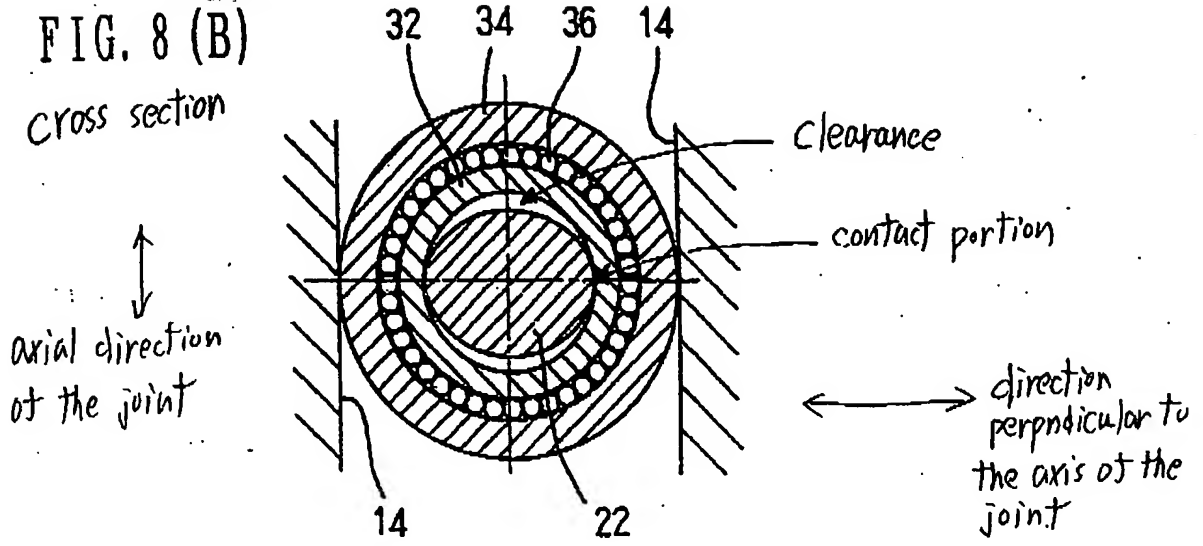
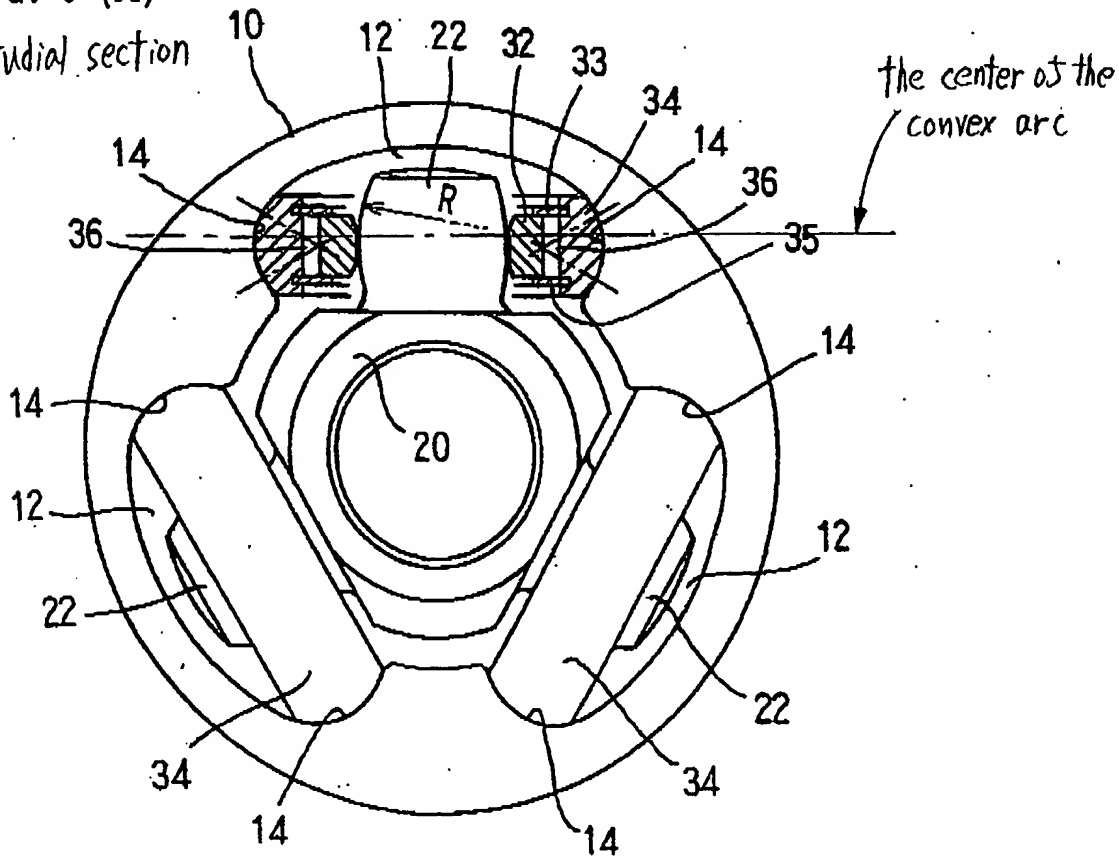


FIG. 8 (A)

longitudial section



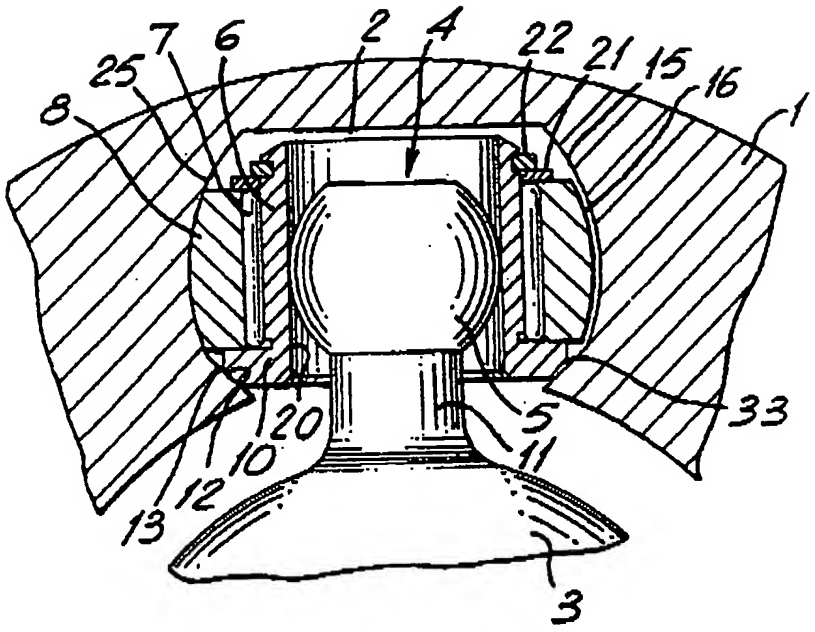


FIG. 1

longitudial direction

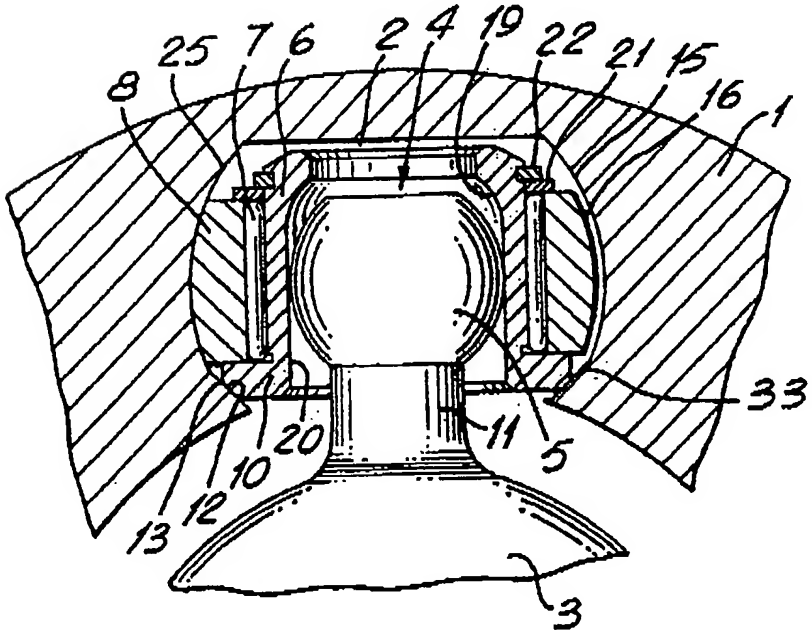


FIG. 2

Bensinger

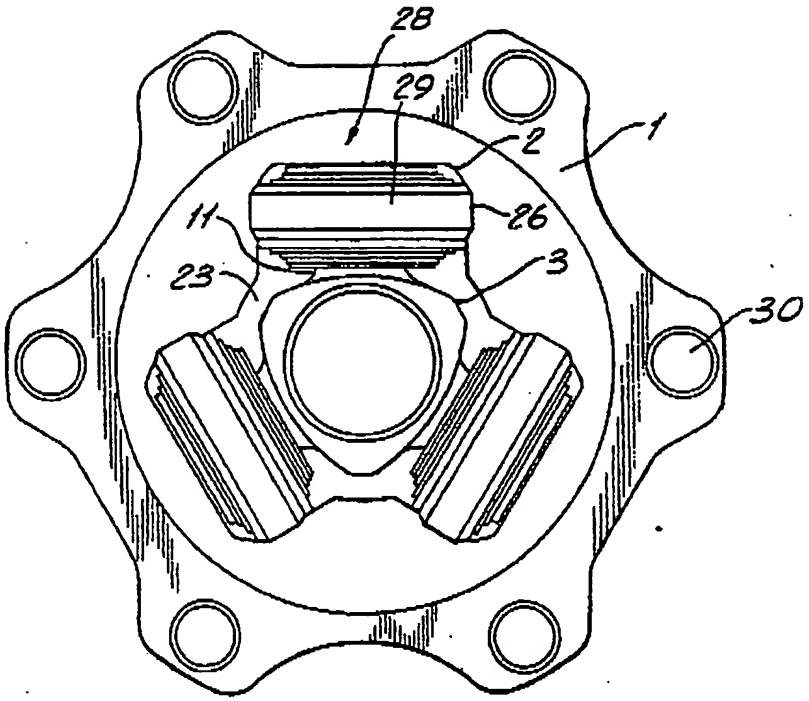


FIG. 5

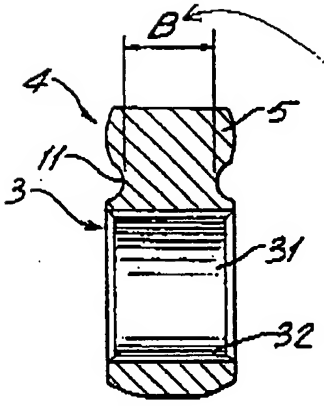


FIG. 6a

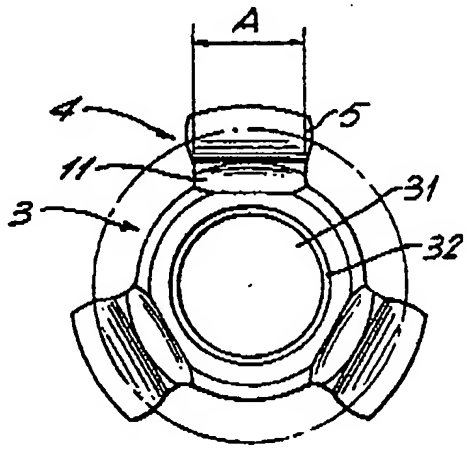


FIG. 6b

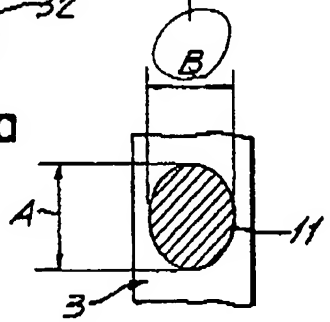


FIG. 6c

axial direction of the joint.

cross section

direction perpendicular to the axis of the joint.